

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Town of Darien Parks and Recreation Commission  
August 17, 2016  
Weed Beach Paddle Hut**

**Attendance:** Mary Flynn, Chairman, Lorene Bora, Dennis Conetta, Susan Daly, Amy Doering, Jonathan England

**Staff:** Parks and Recreation Director, Pamela Gery

**Audience:** Adele Conniff, Chair, RTM Parks and Recreation Committee; Diane Conologue, Vice Chair, RTM Parks and Recreation Committee; Linda Santarella

**Call to Order:** The special meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Flynn at 7:35 PM. A quorum was present.

**Public Comment:** Ms. Flynn opened the floor to public comment. Linda Santarella raised a number of concerns regarding Pear Tree Point Beach including the removal of two trees that have never been replaced, maintenance issues and the unfinished painting of the gazebo. Ms. Santarella also asked the Commission to reconsider the new paint color of the gazebo (traditionally green) and to ensure that painting is completed. Lastly, Ms. Santarella requested that the Commission have a conversation regarding public comment and that she would like to see public comment allowed after every agenda item.

**Approval of July 20, 2016 Minutes:** Ms. Flynn noted that she left the July meeting at 8PM and Ms. Bora assumed the Chair. Additional corrections were noted.

\*\*MRS. BORA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.

\*\* MR. ENGLAND SECONDED

\*\*MOTION PASSED (FLYNN, BORA, DALY, ENGLAND) WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS (DOERING, CONETTA)

**Business:**

**Discuss and possibly take action on the RFP for the Master Park Plan**

Initial discussion centered on the language of the draft RFP, specifically how to best describe the Commission's intent. It was suggested that the primary purpose of the Master Parks Plan being developed by the Commission is to evaluate Darien's parks as a whole with a subset being the search for a location for a pool. As part of the suggested plan, the consultant will provide an evaluation of Town properties to determine if they are appropriate sites for a pool.

It was noted that we asked the Board of Selectman to allow the Commission to include additional Town properties in our Master Park Plan. It was also asked if we should wait on moving forward with the items voted on for Weed Beach and pointed out that it would be most cost effective to have all work done at once.

In the second section of the RFP ("Scope of Work"), Ms. Bora suggested that reference be made to information already gathered by the Weed Beach Committee, i.e., materials including surveys, conceptual drawings, etc.

The Commission discussed the area of the RFP that mentioned scheduling of public outreach sessions for presentation of the Master Plan. Recommended revisions to the draft RFP will be incorporated and ready for review at September's Regular Meeting.

#### **Discuss and possibly take action on the Paddle Hut Rental Agreement**

Action deferred. Ms. Flynn explained that any change to the Paddle Hut Rental Agreement requires an amendment to the Rules and Regulations of the Darien Parks and Recreation, and this was not identified on the agenda. As this was a special meeting, the item could not be added to the agenda. These Rules and Regulations will be discussed at the September meeting.

#### **Discuss and possibly take action on Pickle Ball Court**

Ms. Gery provided an overview of Pickle Ball and its growing popularity. She described how an existing tennis court's lines and net heights can be adjusted to accommodate play. Commission members were supportive of a trial court and requested estimated costs of adjustable nets and line repainting.

#### **Reports/Announcements**

##### **Parks and Recreation Director, Pamela Gery and Assistant Director, Jim Coghlan**

Ms. Gery reported that summer program registration is comparable to last year, and beach permit sales and gate money receipts are at all-time highs. The Fall/Winter program listings are accessible on-line and the brochure will be mailed to residents the week of August 22nd. Two jobs are currently posted: Parks Maintainer and a newly created position of Recreation Program Supervisor. Information from the recent Traffic Study will be shared at next month's meeting.

Responding to Ms. Santarella's concerns, Ms. Gery explained that the gazebo paint color was chosen to match the current concession stand color; the gazebo is not being left unfinished; rather the wood needs time to cure before painting pressure treated wood. She will follow-up with Jim Flynn, Supervisor of Parks Maintenance, regarding maintenance issues. Ms. Flynn added that tree replacement will be evaluated.

##### **Park and Recreation Chairman, Mary Flynn**

No reports from the Chairman. However, Ms. Flynn and Commission members discussed the placement of Public Comment within a Commission Meeting. .

#### **Adjournment:**

**\*\* MS. BORA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* MS. DOERING SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen S. Maul